

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

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SIL-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7989

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

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AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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SUBJECT: THE TUC TALKS TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - A TUC DELEGATION LED BY JACK JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, CALLED ON FOREIGN SECRETARY JAMES CALLAGHAN YESTERDAY (FEBRUARY 4) TO DISCUSS EC RENEGOTIATIONS AND RELATED ISSUES AS WELL AS OTHER INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE TUC SOURCE' MR. CALLAGHAN WAS "QUITE OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT THE RENEGOTIATIONS AND INDICATED THAT HE HAD WON LARGE CONCESSIONS ON MANY POINTS. THE WILSON VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS ALSO TOUCHED UPON BRIEFLY. END SUMMARY

2. JONES WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY AND TUC CHAIRMAN MRS. MARY PATERSON, AS WELL AS GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS LORD ALLEN, TOM JACKSON, CYRIL PLANT, LORD BRIGINSHAW, AND INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ALAN HARGREAVES AND MICHAEL WALSH. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE DISCUSSION WAS ESSENTIALLY A DIALOGUE BETWEEN JONES AND CALLAGHAN, WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION "CHIPPING IN" OCCASIONALLY. JONES REITERATED THE TUC POSITION OF "CONTINUED OPPOSITION" TO THE EC, ITS SUPPORT FOR A REFERENDUM VOTE BY CONSTITUENCIES, AND ITS STRONG INTEREST IN SEEING THAT ANTI- AND PRO-MARKETEERS OBTAINED "EQUAL TIME" IN THE RUN-UP TO THE REFERENDUM.

3. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WHILE INDICATING STRONG OPTIMISM ABOUT THE STATE OF THE RENEGOTIATIONS, SAID HE WAS STILL UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE EC BUDGET ISSUE AND ABOUT EC RULES GOVERNING REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (THE LATTER IN TERMS OF THEIR PRESENTING AN IMPEDIMENT TO UK REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OR TO THE PROPOSED NATIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD). JONES PRESSED THE SECRETARY ON TWO MAJOR POINTS: EC PROGRESS TOWARD POLITICAL UNITY AND THE CONSEQUENT LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY; AND THE HIGH COST OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN TERMS OF VERY HIGH PRICES FOR BRITISH CONSUMERS.

4. SOVEREIGNTY AND CAP: WITH REGARD TO SOVEREIGNTY, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN CONCEDED THAT SOME LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY WAS INHERENT IN COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP, BUT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOLD THE TUC LEADERS THAT THE LOSS OF SOVEREIGNTY WOULD BE EVEN GREATER IF BRITAIN LEFT THE EC -- BY VIRTUE OF ITS DIMINISHED ROLE IN THE WORLD. AS FOR HIGH PRICES UNDER CAP, HE NOTED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT A NUMBER OF PRICES OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY WERE HIGHER THAN THOSE WITHIN IT --(JONES TOOK ISSUE ON THIS POINT, BUT ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION WAS INCONCLUSIVE.)

5. CONSTITUENCY VOTING - WHEN JONES MENTIONED THAT THE TUC IS ON RECORD IN FAVOR OF A CONSTITUENCY VOTE IN THE REFERENDUM, CALLAGHAN REPLIED THAT THIS PROCEDURE -- OR A GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN -- POSED GRAVE DANGERS TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. HE DID NOT INDICATE PRECISELY WHAT POSITION HE FAVORED, BUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF HIS REMARKS WERE THAT HE FAVORED A NATIONAL REFERENDUM. (CALLAGHAN ASKED THE TUC DELEGATION TO AVOID ANY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION BUT THIS POINT WAS "LEAKED" TO THE PRESS ANYWAY.)

6. EQUAL TIME - JONES STRESSED THE TUC POSITION THAT BOTH ANTI- AND PRO-MARKETEERS SHOULD HAVE EQUAL TIME IN MEDIA PRESENTATION OF THEIR POSITIONS AND THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER EXPENDITURES IN THE RUN-UP TO THE REFERENDUM. HOWEVER, CALLAGHAN BEGGED THE QUESTION AND SAID HE WOULD PASS ON THE TUC'S VIEWS TO THE

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APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE DEALING WITH THIS ISSUE. (TUC OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IN ADMINISTERING AN "EQUAL TIME" POLICY.)

7. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE EC DID LITTLE TO "RE-ASSURE" JONES, BUT OUR SOURCE THOUGHT THAT SOME OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, SUCH AS JACKSON AND PLANT -- WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "LEANING" TOWARD THE EC -- WERE VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH THE STATE OF THE RE-NEGOTIATIONS AS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY DESCRIBED THEM.

8. VISIT OF THE WILSON DELEGATION TO THE US - THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT HE WAS VERY HAPPY WITH THE RECEPTION OF THE DELEGATION AND THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN ON GOOD TERMS WITH MR. KISSINGER, HE STRENGTHENED TIES WITH THE SECRETARY EVEN FURTHER. IN TERMS OF CONTENT, HE SAID HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM. HE NOTED, WITH PLEASURE, THAT HE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY (PRESUMABLY DURING ONE OF THE SOCIAL OCCASIONS) TO MEET AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER LANE KIRKLAND. HE ADDED THAT THERE IS A TENDENCY IN THE US TO ASSUME THAT "WE'RE ALL REDS" AND THEREFORE BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY FOR MORE BRITISH TRADE UNIONISTS TO VISIT THE US (PRESUMABLY IN ORDER TO DISABUSE AMERICANS OF THIS IMPRESSION).

8. SPAIN - JONES URGED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TO SEEK TO HAVE A BRITISH OBSERVER AT THE APPEAL HEARING NEXT WEEK

OF THE "CARABANCHEL TEN." MR. CALLAGHAN SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE TUC SHOULD SEND AN OBSERVER -- AND THE TUC "WILL LOOK INTO THE MATTER."

9. CHILE - JONES EXPRESSED THE TUC'S CONCERN ABOUT THE UK'S ASSENT TO RENEGOTIATION OF CHILEAN DEBTS. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD HIS VISITORS HE DID NOT WANT TO MAKE IT EASY FOR CHILE, BUT THAT THE UK WAS ONLY ONE GOVERNMENT AMONG MANY AND THAT IT WAS TIED TO MULTILATERAL DECISIONS.

10. PORTUGAL - MR. CALLAGHAN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCERN ABOUT THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND THE HOPE THAT THE TUC WOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT HELPING THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY AND THE TRADE UNIONS (PRESUMABLY THOSE LINKED TO THE PSP). JONES TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO VISIT PORTUGAL IN MARCH AND WOULD BE SPEAKING ON PSP PLATFORMS AROUND THE COUNTRY. JONES ALSO NOTED THAT HIS UNION HAD CONTRIBUTED FUNDS TO THE PSP AND WOULD BE GRANTING MORE MONEY IN THE FUTURE.

11. SOUTH AFRICA - THE TUC INFORMED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THEIR PROGRAMS FOR SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF A GRANT OF 13,000 POUNDS TO THE DURBAN URBAN TRAINING CENTER. MR. CALLAGHAN SAID HE HOPED HE WOULD RECEIVE CREDIT IN TUC CONGRESS REPORTS FOR GETTING A LABOR ATTACHE APPOINTED IN SOUTH AFRICA (THE FCO, WE ARE TOLD, HAD RESISTED THE IDEA INITIALLY).

12. COMMENT - THE MAIN OBJECT OF THE TUC'S VISIT WAS, OF COURSE, TO OBTAIN AN UPDATED PICTURE OF THE RENEGOTIATIONS AND TO REAFFIRM ITS CURRENT POSITION ON THE EC. HOWEVER, THE TUC IS STILL A LONG WAY FROM A RE-EXAMINATION IN DEPTH OF ITS POSITION AND CLEARLY WANTS TO WAIT UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN ORDER TO DO SO. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS NO STRONG PRESSURE SO FAR FROM EITHER ANTI-MARKET OR PRO-MARKET TUC LEADERS FOR A SPECIAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS THE EC (JACKSON WAS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, WHICH MET ON FEBRUARY 3, WHO ACTUALLY CALLED FOR SUCH A SPECIAL TUC CONFERENCE).

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